



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

January 31, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: AGC-DOT Joint Cooperative Committee Members

FROM: E. C. Powell, Jr., PE
State Construction Engineer

SUBJECT: Minutes to the Joint Committee Meeting

The Joint Cooperative Committee of the CAGC-DOT met at 10:00 AM on January 18, 2007, in the Chief Engineer's Conference Room at the NCDOT Maintenance and Equipment Facility located on Beryl Road in Raleigh.

Members and attendees present included:

Debbie Barbour
Susan Coward
Jack Cowsert
Steve DeWitt
C. A. Gardner
Ron Hancock
Berry Jenkins
Drew Johnson

Michelle Long
Art McMillan
Graham Moore
Donnie Oldham
Ellis Powell, Jr.
Ed Spencer
Lamar Sylvester

Bill Tomlinson
Steve Varnedoe
Richard Vick
Don Voelker
Phillip Watts
Sherell Williams
Sim Wooten, Jr.

Mr. Graham Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced Mr. Bill Tomlinson as a new member of the CAGC/DOT Joint Committee.

Project LettingsDebbie Barbour

- Ms. Debbie Barbour advised the following significant projects scheduled for letting in the next few months do not have permits and are being monitored closely:
 - B-2532, Trent River Bridge, (February letting) does not have an approved US Coast Guard permit.
 - B-0682, Sunset Beach Bridge, (April letting) does not have an approved US Coast Guard permit.
 - R-2245, Second Bridge to Oak Island, (May letting) does not have approved 404, CAMA nor the US Coast Guard permits.

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- R-0609IA and R-0690IB, US 311 in High Point, (April letting) do not have an approved 404 permit.
- Ms. Barbour advised that the Department’s target budget for lettings for calendar year 2007 is \$650 million for T.I.P. projects.
- Mr. Steve Varnedoe advised that the Department proposed to let between \$200 and \$250 million for projects funded by the Garvey bond in calendar year 2007. The Department is developing a draft list of Interstate Maintenance (IM) projects proposed to be funded by the Garvey bond and is targeting July 2007 to begin letting these projects.

Legislative Update.....Susan Coward

- Ms. Susan Coward advised that the proposed substantive legislative items the Department will pursue include:
 - Safety initiative legislation that needs to be changed to allow the Department to continue to qualify for FHWA funding due to changes in SAFETEA-LU.
 - Extend the current Design Build legislation to allow the number of projects to continue or increase after 2009.
 - Extend the Performance Based Maintenance Contract legislation an additional legislation biennium to extend the option to pursue the second pilot project.
- Ms. Coward advised that the deadline for filing bills is two months away. There will be more discussion before the final package is submitted.
- Mr. Berry Jenkins noted that the CAGC would most likely not support an increase in the number of Design Build projects. There is a concern that increasing the number may effect smaller contractors’ workload.

N. C. Turnpike Authority Progress..... Steve DeWitt

- Mr. Steve DeWitt reported the following updates of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA):
 - The advertisement for the Triangle Parkway and Section C of the Western Wake Expressway is scheduled for May or June 2007. The projects will be Design Build and the estimated construction costs for both projects are \$110 million and \$150 million, respectively. There will be an advertisement for a Private Engineering Firm contract for utility relocation throughout the Western Wake Expressway corridor. Sections A and B

of the Western Wake Expressway corridor will be advertised on a six month staggered schedule in an effort to ensure a good pool of candidates.

- NCTA is in the process of filling three positions: Director of Project Development, Director of Construction and Operations Manager.
- A NCTA Board Meeting was held January 17, 2007 in Charlotte. Mr. Jim Humphrey of the City of Charlotte outlined a study that the City is conducting for the potential use of tolls in Charlotte.
- There are two other projects the NCTA is pursuing, Yadkin River Corridor along Interstate 85 and the Mid-Currituck Bridge. There is an expectation that legislation will pass this summer that would allow the Yadkin River Corridor to become a toll corridor. Mr. DeWitt would like to meet with a group of contractors to brainstorm ideas to keep costs down and discuss access issues for the Mid-Currituck Bridge project.

3D Modeling for GPS Grading and Stakeout.....Berry Jenkins

- Mr. Berry Jenkins advised that the Carolinas Association of General Contractors (CAGC) met with the Executive Director of the NC Licensing Board for Engineers and Land Surveyors to discuss how technological advances in 3D modeling for grading and staking were being used in the construction industry. The CAGC submitted to the Licensing Board a suggested wording regarding the use of 3D modeling to be adopted as a substitute for the current rule. The NC Licensing Board for Engineers and Land Surveyors accepted and approved the CAGC's substitute wording as outlined below:

“The creation and design of the controls, profiles, and cross sections for the electronic data used in the Digital Terrain Models for the purposes of earthwork grading and stake-out is within the definition of the practice of land surveying and engineering and shall be done under the responsible charge of a Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor.”

DOT/CAGC Conferences for Winter 2007 - Update.....Ron Hancock

- Mr. Ron Hancock advised that the DOT/CAGC Conferences for 2007 are scheduled as follows.
 - Conference No. 1 - Wilmington, NC - February 5 - 6, 2007
 - Conference No. 2 - Atlantic Beach, NC - February 21 - 22, 2007
 - Conference No. 3 - Asheville, NC - March 6 - 7, 2007
- Conference Number 1 will begin at 1 p.m. on the first day and Conference Numbers 2 and 3 will begin at 8 a.m. on the first day. Each conference will have a general session, breakout sessions and an ending session focusing on cost containment. The Department will send directions and an agenda of the conference a week before each conference.

DBE Provisions.....Berry Jenkins

- Mr. Berry Jenkins advised that beginning with the February 2007 lettings, the Department will have a new set of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Provisions included in the contracts. The new provision requires a DBE firm to sign a confirming document that he agrees to have his prices used in the contract and he will perform the work at the prices stated. Mr. Jenkins questioned if the DBE contracting community is aware of this new requirement. Mr. Ellis Powell will contact the Department of Civil Rights and Contractual Services Unit to determine if the DBE contracting community has been notified of the new DBE Provisions. Mr. Powell stated FHWA has not reviewed the provisions and inclusion of the new provisions may need to be postponed until March 2007.

OTHER ISSUES

Mr. Steve Varnedoe announced that Mr. Bill Rosser is the State Highway Administrator.

- The Secretary of Transportation has charged Mr. Rosser to focus on the following five key areas.
 1. Warranties on pavements.
 2. Require Department staff, contractors, consultants and others involved in specialized projects to have a thorough training of the unique procedures prior to construction.
 3. Use NC Department of Transportation personnel to inspect projects, especially lead project inspectors. If private engineering firm inspection is used, they should be lower level technicians.
 4. Top level NC Department of Transportation managers to periodically visit site to inspect major projects during the life of the project for inspection of construction and progress.
 5. Projects with new and innovative elements will go through rigorous review and quality checks throughout their design, development and construction and will require approval from DOT senior management. In addition, all project changes will be properly documented and provided to all involved parties.
- Mr. Varnedoe stated that in addition to the five focus areas stated above, proper documentation would be a focus area. When construction meetings are held, it is the expectation that the minutes will be properly documented and distributed. A workgroup has been formed to look into the documentation issues.
- Mr. Graham Moore advised that it was suggested that the frequency of meetings for this committee change from every two months to every three months due to the limited number of items that have been discussed for the past several meetings. After discussion, it was concluded to continue with the schedule of meetings every two months and if it were decided there was not a need to meet, the meeting would be canceled.

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The next meeting will be scheduled for March 22, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Chief Engineer's Conference Room at Beryl Road, Raleigh.

SRW:kdI

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Mr. Dan DeVane

Mr. W. D. Riddick

Mr. Roberto Canales, PE

Mr. W. F. Rosser, PE

Mr. W. S. Varnedoe, PE

Ms. D. M. Barbour, PE

Mr. S. D. DeWitt, PE

Mr. J. G. Nance, PE

Mr. L. D. Love, PE

Mr. B. G. Jenkins, Jr., PE

Mr. C. L. Jones, PE

Mr. J. V. Barbour, PE

Mr. Art McMillan, PE

Mr. C. W. Leggett, PE

Mr. J. F. Sullivan, III, PE (Attn. Mr. Don Voelker, PE)